Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the three paragraphs, beginning at page 8, line 6 and ending at page 8, line 27, with the following three redlined paragraphs:

In case of the pointing device 10, as said, the microcontroller 22 may control not only the shifting of an arrow on the screen 27, but also "clicking" functions, based, *e.g.*, on the variation speed, i.e., the rate of change, of the output signals X, Y fed by the accelerometer(s) 20, 30. Conveniently, the microcontroller 22 is able to discriminate among unintentional small movements (*e.g.*, tremors) of the user's head, intentional movements of bigger entity for pointer position control and rapid head movements for "clicking."

To this end, the microcontroller compares the entity of the detected movements (difference between the current and previous output signals X and Y, fed by the accelerometer) ~~with own movement thresholds, to detect an arrow control movement, and~~ with a click threshold~~,~~ ~~greater than the movement thresholds,~~ to detect a clicking movement, and, if a clicking movement is not detected, the microcontroller compares the signals X and Y with respective thresholds THX and THY to detect arrow control movements. ~~In practice, the derivative of the signals along directions X and Y is calculated and compared with thresholds for controlling the position of the arrow on the screen or for controlling clicking functions.~~

In particular, when an arrow control movement is detected (slow movement of the head), the signs of the ~~derivatives~~ signals indicate the direction (up, down, left, right) of the arrow movement with a speed which is a function of the amplitude of the ~~derivative~~signals. When instead a clicking function is detected, the sign of the derivative of one output signal indicates simple clicking of the left or of the right button, and the sign of the derivative of the other output signal indicates continuous pressure of the left button or interruption of the continuous pressure, as below described in detail.

Please replace the six paragraphs, beginning at page 9, line 6 and ending at page 11, line 2, with the following six redlined paragraphs:

Initially, step 50, thresholds THC, THX, THY, and constants Kx, Ky are initialized. Threshold THC represents the clicking threshold, that is the minimum derivative in absolute value for controlling a clicking function; THX represents the X-signal threshold, that is the minimum ~~derivative~~ signal in absolute value for recognizing a valid movement along the X axis and THY represents the Y-signal threshold, that is the minimum ~~derivative~~ signal in absolute value for recognizing a valid movement along the Y axis. Kx and Ky represent the desired movement speed.

Then, the (digitized) output signals X and Y from the accelerometer(s) 20, 30 are read, step 52; the entity of the movement in the X direction is calculated as the difference between the output signal X and a previous value XOLD, and represents the amount of change of position in the X direction since the previous value XOLD was read. ~~and~~ The resulting value is compared with positive clicking threshold THC, step 54. If the difference X-XOLD is higher than the positive clicking threshold THC, indicating a rate of change that exceeds the threshold THC, a right click (corresponding to clicking of the right button in a conventional mouse) is detected and a corresponding signal is sent to the computer system, step 56; otherwise the difference X-XOLD is compared with the negative clicking threshold -THC, step 58. If the difference X-XOLD is lower than the negative clicking threshold -THC, a left click (corresponding to clicking of the left button in a conventional mouse) is detected and a corresponding signal is sent to the computer system, step 60.

If the difference X-XOLD is higher than negative clicking threshold -THC but lower than positive clicking threshold THC, output NO from step 58, the absolute value of the ~~difference X-XOLD~~ signal X is compared with X-signal threshold THX to discriminate between an ~~intentional~~ unintentional small movement and a control movement, step 62. If the absolute value of the ~~difference X-XOLD~~ signal X is higher than X-signal threshold THX, a new position X_POS of the mouse on the screen is calculated by adding a quantity Kx*X, proportional to the detected output signal X, to the previous position OLDX_POS and a corresponding signal is sent to the computer system, step 64.

If the ~~X-direction movement~~ absolute value of the signal X is lower than the X-signal threshold THX (output NO from step 62), as well as after detecting a clicking function (after steps 56, 60) and after calculating the new position X_POS (after step 64), the variation of the output signal Y is checked, analogously to what has been described for the X signal. Thus, the entity of the movement in the Y direction is calculated as the difference between the output signal Y and a previous value YOLD and compared with positive clicking threshold THC, step 66. If the difference Y-YOLD is higher than the positive clicking threshold THC, a command analogous to the continuous pressure of the left button in a conventional mouse is detected and a corresponding signal is sent to the computer system, step 68; otherwise the difference Y-YOLD is compared with the negative clicking threshold -THC, step 70. If the difference Y-YOLD is lower than the negative clicking threshold -THC, a release command of the left button is detected and a corresponding signal is sent to the computer system, step 72.

If the difference Y-YOLD is higher than negative clicking threshold -THC but lower than positive clicking threshold THC, output NO from step 70, the absolute value of the ~~difference Y-YOLD~~signal Y is compared with Y-signal threshold THY, step 74. If the absolute value of the signal Y ~~difference Y-YOLD~~ is higher than Y-signal threshold THY, a new position Y_POS of the mouse on the screen is calculated by adding a quantity Ky*Y, proportional to the detected output signal Y, to a previous position value OLDY_POS and a corresponding signal is sent to the computer system, step 76.

If the signal Y ~~Y-direction movement~~ is lower than the Y-signal threshold THY (output NO from step 74), as well as after detecting a continuous clicking or clicking release function (after steps 68, 72) and after calculating the new position Y_POS (after step 76), the previous values XOLD, YOLD, OLDX_POS and OLDY_POS are updated with the current values X, Y, X_POS and Y_POS, step 78.